

Videotaping Local History

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Book Notices

for instance—come to be defined as inseparable, the American response is condemnation. Laudanum dependency, in contrast, was socially acceptable for a much longer time because of its tendency to be a problem whose victims were of the proper sort.

Drugs in America is an excellent but not perfect work. Its most significant weakness is that Morgan fails to match his usual quality of writing. Although literate and polished and acceptable from lesser persons, the prose lacks the sparkle normally provided by its author. However, such a quibble should not deter any potential reader, lay or academic. Overall the work is of high quality, and it should be a welcome addition to the growing body of work on a fascinating aspect of American social history.

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

J. HERSCHEL BARNHILL

Book Notices

Iowa Municipal Records Manual, by Nancy Mossman. (Des Moines: Iowa State Historical Department, 1982. pp. 119, sources for additional information, index, \$5.00 paper.)

The disposal of out-dated municipal records has long been a problem. In 1977, the staff of the League of Iowa Municipalities determined that a manual on the care and disposition of records would be helpful to city governments. Through the efforts of individuals such as Edwin Allen, Peter Harstad, and Edward McConnell, funding for such a project was obtained from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in 1979 and this manual is the final result. This manual consists of retention-disposal schedules for various types of records and also deals with inactive storage, historical appraisal, and municipal records management ordinances. Sources for further reading provide additional information. All municipal officials will want a copy of this handy reference work.

Videotaping Local History, by Brad Jolly. (Nashville: American Association for State & Local History, 1982. pp. 160, appendixes, glossary of terms, illustrations, bibliography, index, \$11.95 paper.)

The author, a reporter, has worked as project field director for the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling. He has produced this handy volume that places video

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technology within the reach of anyone interested in interpreting and preserving our ways of life for future generations. He discusses how to select the proper video format, how to set up and use video equipment, how to record oral history interviews, and how to expand interpretation with video. Three appendixes illustrate the equipment available and include price ranges. Certainly a useful guide in the modern age of television and video.

Public Works History in the United States: A Guide to the Literature, ed. Suellen M. Hoy and Michael C. Robinson. (Nashville: American Association of State & Local History, 1982. pp. 512, index, \$49.00 cloth.)

Over 5,000 entries document the historical development of planning, engineering, and administration; irrigation; flood control; roads, streets, and highways; urban mass transportation; energy; and parks and recreation. This reference work should be most useful to public historians, planners, architectural and engineering firms, and for all interested in an understanding of American expansion and technical growth. This is the most comprehensive bibliography published to date on a very relevant topic.

Westward in Eden: The Public Lands and the Conservation Movement, by William K. Wyant. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982. pp. 536, photographs, notes, bibliography, index, \$24.50 cloth.)

This is essential reading for Americans in the 1980s who are concerned about the use (and subsequent abuse) of our public lands. The author, long-time reporter for the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* in Washington, has made an exhaustive search of public documents and extensive field reporting, to present his case against the exploitation of our natural resources—the only remains of our frontier—the land. By tracing the history of American land settlement and conservation practices and focusing on events in the 1970s, the author provides a setting for discussion of today's land and environmental issues. Woven throughout this story are the lives of such men as Teddy Roosevelt, Stephen T. Mather (first director of the National Park Service), Albert B. Fall, Carl Schurz, Cecil D. Andrus, and Morris K. Udall. He presents a good assessment of the current so-called "Sagebrush Rebellion" whereby public lands in the western states would be placed under state jurisdiction, where special interest groups can attain their ends even more freely than under federal control. A

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